

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 SS-15 NSC-10

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10

IO-12 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

OIC-04 RSR-01 /194 W

----- 100247

R 181238 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5128

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07140

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, WG

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FURTHER FRG VIEWS ON CONSUMER
COOPERATION

REF: BONN 7 O12

1. SUMMARY. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH FUNKHOUSER
AND EMBOFF, ECONOMICS MINISTRY DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY KLING INDICATED THAT 1) THE FRG AND OTHER EC
STATES EXPECT THE U. S. TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN
PROPOSING CONCRETE MEASURES FOR CONSUMER COOPERATION,
2) THE FRG PREFERS THE " FIXING" OF THE EC POSITION FOR
UPCOMING OECD ENERGY DISCUSSIONS AFTER THE SIMONET
DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN BEFORE, AND 3)
THE FRG INSISTS THAT IN ANY CONSUMER COOPERATION
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ARRANGEMENT THE INTERESTS OF PRIVATE INDEPENDENT COMPANIES MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING " UNOFFICIALLY", KLING STATED THAT THE GERMANS AND MOST EUROPEANS EXPECTED THE AMERICANS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN MAKING CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR CONSUMER COOPERATION. THE U. S.' S POSITION AS THE " WORLD' S LARGEST OIL CONSUMER" REQUIRED IT TO PLAY THIS ROLE, HE SAID. CONSEQUENTLY, FRG OFFICIALS WERE SLIGHTLY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE PRESIDENT' S ENERGY MESSAGE SPOKE OF CONSUMER COOPERATION ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS. KLING EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG SAW MERIT IN " FLEXIBILITY" WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC MEASURES INDIVIDUAL NATIONS SHOULD TAKE AS LONG AS CONSUMERS TOGETHER ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE CRISES. FOR EXAMPLE, NOTING THAT SOME EUROPEANS DISLIKED STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR EUROPE WHEN SUCH WAS NOT REQUIRED OF THE US AND JAPAN, HE SUGGESTED AS A PERSONAL VIEW THAT DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT NECESSITATE DIFFERENT ACTIONS, IMPLYING, HOWEVER, THAT THE OVERALL OBLIGATIONS AND BENEFITS SHOULD BE EQUALLY DISTRIBUTED.

3. KLING EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT EC ENERGY COMMISSIONER SIMONET' S DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WOULD PROVIDE THE EUROPEANS WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE US ATTITUDE REGARDING CONSUMER COOPERATION. WE WERE TOLD THAT, IN THE MAY 16 MEETING IN BONN BETWEEN ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH'S AND SIMONET, THE GERMAN SIDE ARGUED FOR " FIXING" THE EC POSITION FOR THE OECD DISCUSSIONS IN JUNE AFTER SIMONET HAD OBTAINED THE BENEFIT OF THE AMERICAN THINKING DURING HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON AT THE END OF MAY. KLING REITERATED A POINT MADE EARLIER BY HIS BOSS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY LANTZKE, THAT THE GERMANS WANT SIMONET TO GO TO WASHINGTON WITH AN EC AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON CONSUMER COOPERATION BUT WITHOUT A MANDATE ON THE SUBSTANCE. OUR CONTACT SAID THAT MINISTER FRIDERICH'S

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 07140

STRESSED TO SIMONET THE NECESSITY OF THE COMMUNITY
BEING A " GOOD PARTNER" IN THE US/ EC/ JAPAN DIALOG
OVER CONSUMER COOPERATION.

4. REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND THE
INDEPENDEN GERMAN OIL FIRMS, KLING MADE THE FOLLOWING
OBSERVATIONS: HE NOTED THAT THE FRG' S CONTINUED

DEPENDENCE FOR SUPPLY ON THE INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES
ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ACT AGAINST
THEIR INTERESTS. IN FACT, THE FRG ASSISTED THEM
BY VIRTUALLY " CLOSING ITS EYES" TO THE " VERY GREAT
PRICE INCREASES" IN RECENT YEARS AND EVEN AIDING THEIR
PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS BY STATING PUBLICLY THAT
PRICE RISES WERE NECESSARY, HE SAID. ON THE OTHER
HAND, THE FRG WILL WORK TO INCREASE THE COMPETITIVE STATUS
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OF THE INDEPENDENT GERMAN COMPANIES, STATED
KLING. HE NOTED THAT ANY CONSUMER COOPERATION
ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE
INTERESTS OF THESE " HAVE NOT" COMPANIES.

5. THIS MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH FUNKHOUSER,
WHO DEPARTED BONN BEFORE IT WAS DRAFTED.
HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN07140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730548/aaaajlam.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BONN 7012
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980220
Subject: ENERGY: FURTHER FRG VIEWS ON CONSUMER COOPERATION
TAGS: ENRG, WG, EEC
To: EC BRUSSELS
EUR
LONDON
OECD PARIS
PARIS
ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC

TOKYO

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005